

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-25 are pending. Claims 1-10, 12, 16, 23 and 24 stand rejected. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 17-22 and 25 are allowed and that claims 11 and 13-15 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

The applicants have corrected a minor typographical error in the specification. Support for this correction is found in applicants' specification as originally filed, specifically at page 18, lines 17 through page 19, line 13 and, thus, does not introduce new matter.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

The Office Action at page 2, paragraph 2, sets forth "Claims 1-4, 7-10, 12, 16, 23, and 24 are rejected under 37 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Aylward et al. in U.S. Patent number 6,690,816..." Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome by the amendments to the claims for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants have added the feature of allowable claim 13 into claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-4, 7-10 and 16 depend upon claim 1 either directly or indirectly and, thus, are not subject to rejection for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

With respect to claims 23 and 24, applicants have amended these claims to include the allowable feature of claim 13, and respectfully request the allowance of claims 23 and 24.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Office Action at page 7, paragraph 15, sets forth "Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aylward...and further in view of the article 'Rapid Automated Tracing and Feature Extraction...' by Can et al."

Because claims 5 and 6 ultimately depend upon allowable claim 1, these claims are no longer subject to rejection. Applicants respectfully request therefore that these claims be allowed.

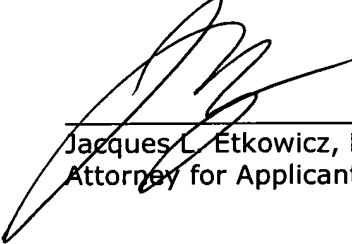
Applicants have also rewritten claim 11 into independent form. Thus, claim 11 is in condition for allowance.

Applicants have added claims 26-28. Basis for these claims may be found in applicants' specification as originally filed, and more particularly at page 19, lines 3-13. These claims do not add new matter. Applicants respectfully request that these claims be entered and examined.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, applicants submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

RatnerPrestia



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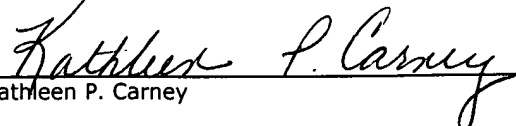
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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 20, 2005.



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